

CH-533
Acker House
Harris Lot vic.
Private

circa 1900

The 2-story frame Acker House has been dramatically altered over its many years of occupation. The house, reputedly a late 19th century "farmhouse," has been so altered that its original form is undistinguishable. The interiors reveal some of the house's original features, including the random width wood floors, and a remnant of the original stair with its Victorian-era newel post and molded rail.

The Acker House is reputed to be the original "farm house" in the area. However, documentary research failed to confirm this, and architectural evidence is scanty. As the house now stands, it has the appearance of a much altered circa-1900 dwelling. The house has been owned and used by the Acker family and its descendants for nearly eighty years.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-533

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Acker House

common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number end of Acker Road not for publication _____

city or town Thompkinsville vicinity X state Maryland code MD

county Charles code 017 zip code 20644

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- X private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
_____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
_____ district
_____ site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

None (altered)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: poured concrete
roof gable: asphalt shingles
walls wood frame: wood shingles
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance circa 1900

Significant Dates circa 1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-533

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is designated as Parcel 98 on Map 86 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Acker House has been associated with Parcel 98, Map 86 since its construction.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date April 11, 1999
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner

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name Eleanore & John W. Gardner
street & number 4611 16th Street, N.W. telephone 301-946-0621
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20011

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

Section 7 Page 1

Acker House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The 2-story frame Acker House has been dramatically altered over its many years of occupation. The house, reputedly a late 19th century "farmhouse," has been so altered that its original form is undistinguishable. The interiors reveal some of the house's original features, including the random width wood floors, a remnant of the original stair with its Victorian-era newel post and molded rail.

As it stands today, the house consists of a 2-story, side gable frame building with a low-pitched roof and wood shingle cladding. Standing on a poured concrete pier foundation, the house features open eaves and a plain wood raking cornice. A wide reconstructed screened porch surrounds two sides of the house. A 1-story shed addition on the east side of the dwelling houses the modern kitchen.

The building's profile gives the impression that the roof line and/or the building's depth has been altered, however, interior evidence of such a changes is meager. It is known that in 1920 the building was clad in wood weatherboard and had essentially the same form as today. The windows have all recently been replaced with 8/8 metal sash, and the wrap-around porch rebuilt.

The house's interior layout is irregular with the enclosed stair running parallel and adjacent to the south wall of the house. The first floor is finished with plaster walls and low plaster ceilings. Match stick wainscoting common to the early decades of the 20th century lines the walls of the rooms, while round-edged wood casings adorn the window and door openings. The original floors have been overlain with even-width hardwood floors and the main entry on the south side of the house holds a salvaged Victorian-era door that has been cut down to fit the door opening.

The stair gives the appearance of having been moved to its present site. The stairs rise steeply to the second floor with a Victorian newel post located at the top of the flight. The second floor contains more original material including several 4-panel doors with glass knobs and the exposed original random-width flooring.

The roof structure consists of circular sawn common rafters, dating it to the late 19th or early 20th century.

Two outbuildings accompany the house. The one contributing outbuilding has likewise been altered. It is a frame shed that likely dates to the 1920s or 1930s. It consists of a front gable

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

Section 7 Page 2

Acker House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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frame structure with a replacement door and asphalt shingle roof. Sitting on a poured concrete pad, the exterior of the shed has been reclad with vinyl faux vertical board siding. Next to the shed is an old well with a pump mounted atop it.

The second outbuilding is more recent and consists of a pre-fabricated frame shed with an asymmetrical gable and vertical board siding.

All of the resources are in good condition.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

Section 8 Page 1

Acker House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The Acker House is reputed to be the original "farm house" in the area. However, documentary research failed to confirm this, and architectural evidence is scanty. As the house now stands, it has the appearance of a much altered circa-1900 dwelling. The house has been owned and used by the Acker family and its descendants for nearly eighty years.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, the property upon which the Acker House stands was owned by the Willett family. Zacariah T. Hayden and his wife, who had acquired the property from Josephine Willett, sold a 3 acre lot to Mary S. Hayden for \$500 in 1895. In 1901, Mary Hayden, who is noted as a resident of nearby Harris Lot, sold the same 3 acres to Willard A. Whitmore of Washington, D.C. Whitmore willed the property to his wife at his death in 1910. In 1915, Elizabeth Whitmore sold the 3 acres at the mouth of Cuckhold Creek for \$1000 to Clarence W. Whitmore

Prior to 1920, while on a boat trip, Harold K. Acker discovered the house and property at the mouth of Cuckhold Creek and decided to purchase it as a seasonal retreat. He acquired the 3 acres from Whitmore in June 1920. Since then, the house has remaining in the hands of Acker's descendants, passing from one generation to the next.

Due to its proximity to Washington, D.C. and other metropolitan centers, the shoreline of Southern Maryland became a popular place for urbanites to purchase land and build summer retreats. The area surrounding the Acker House has developed over the years into a small waterfront community known as Banks'O Dee.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Acker House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-
1930
Modern Period, 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

ARCHITECTURE

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

Acker House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

Unknown date:	Mrs. Josephine Willett to Zachariah T. Hayden
September 4, 1895:	Zachariah T. & Ann Lucretia Hayden to Mary S. Hayden \$500, 3 acres Charles County Land Records Liber JST 8 Folio 59
October 12, 1901:	Mary A. Hayden of Harris Lot to Willard A. Whitmore of Washington, DC 3 acres at the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, land of Mrs. Josephine Willett Charles County Land Records Liber 12 Folio 259
September 20, 1910:	Will of Willard A. Whitmore Devises all real & personal property to his wife, Elizabeth M. Whitmore Charles County Register of Wills Liber CHP 19 Folio 488
September 1, 1915:	Elizabeth M. Whitmore of Washington, DC to Clarence W. Whitmore of Charles County \$1000, 3 acres Charles County Land Records Liber HCC 28 Folio 586
June 17, 1920:	Clarence W. Whitmore & Ethel McCleary Whitmore of St. Mary's County to Harold K. Acker \$1500, 3 acres near the mouth of Cuckhold Creek Charles County Land Records Liber WMA 36 Folio 597
July 7, 1938:	Harold K. & Florence Acker to Eleanore A. T. Gardner 1.5 acres

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-533

Acker Road
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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July 13, 1942:

Eleanore Anne Thompson Gardner &
John Wesley Gardner, Jr. to Florence
G. Ackers
1.5 acres near the mouth of Cuckhold
Creek
Charles County Land Records
Liber PCM 85 Folio 555

January 5, 1991:

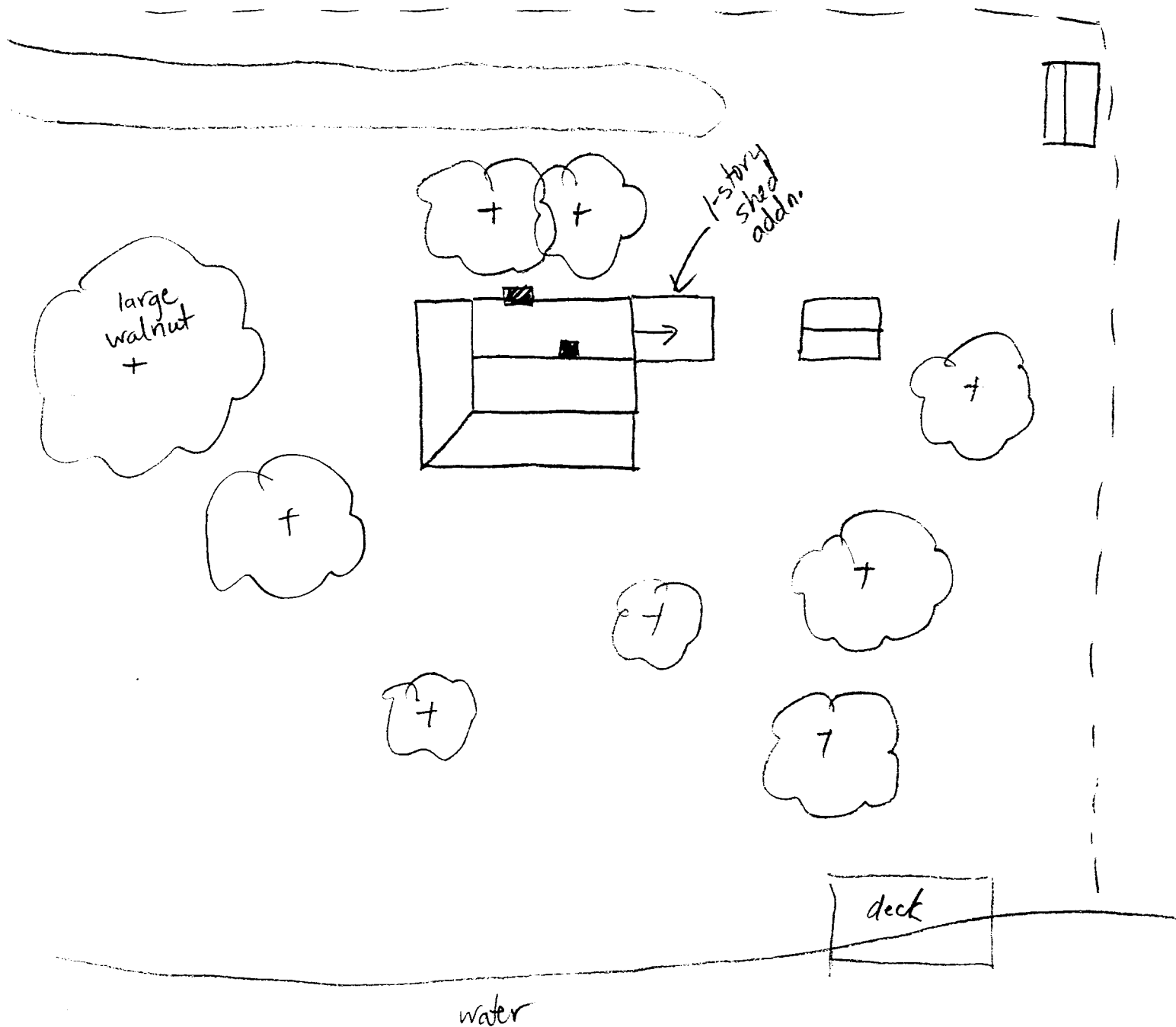
Dorothy Virginia Koehler to Eleanor
A. & John Wesley Gardner
1.5 acres at mouth of Cuckhold Creek
Charles County Land Records
Liber 1526 Folio 207

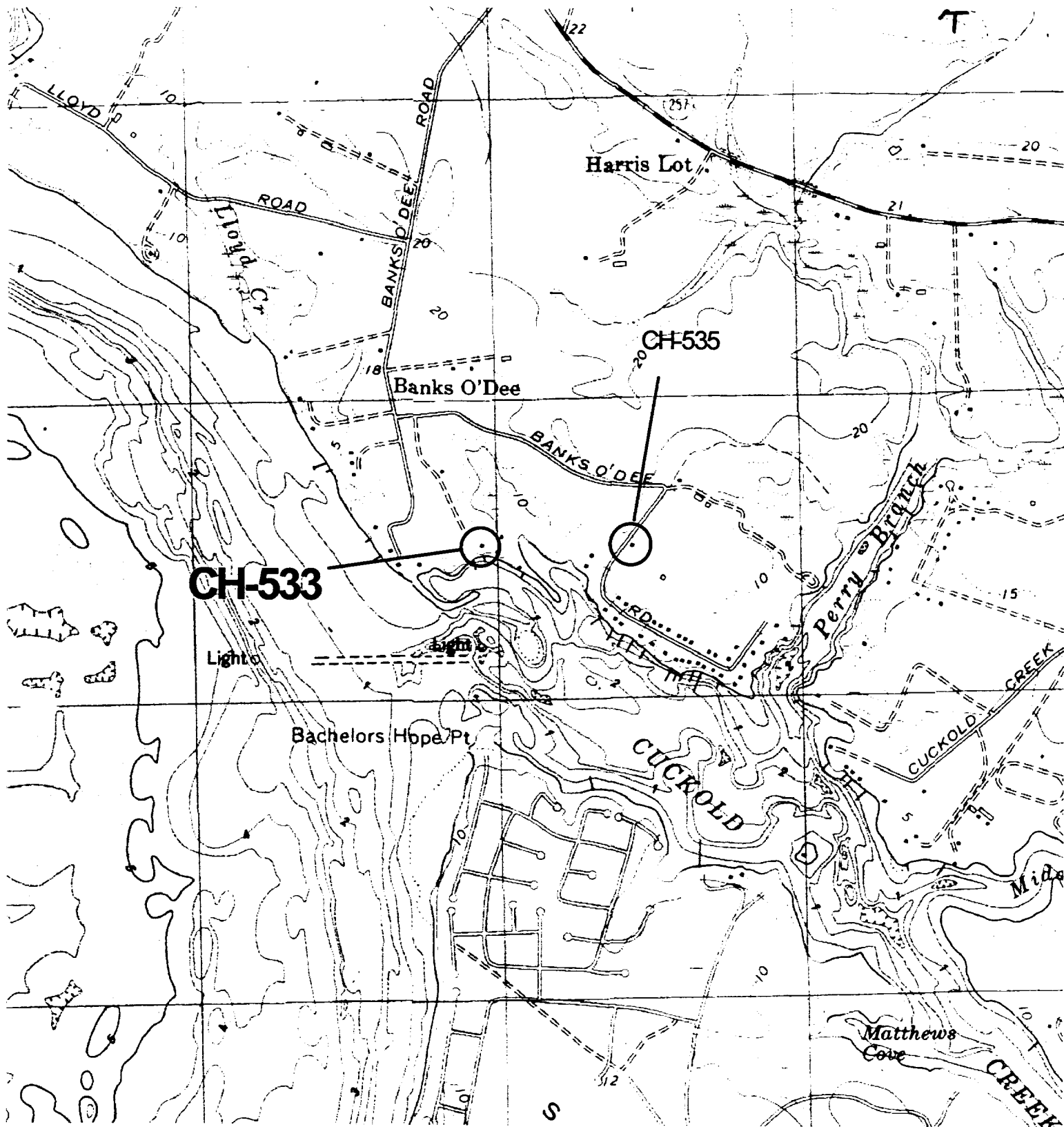
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

3/99

ACKER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
THOMPKINSVILLE VIC.

CH-533





Acker House
Charles County, MD

CH-533

COLONIAL BEACH NORTH, MD-VA QUAD



CH-533

ACKER HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

3/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NE

1 OF 4



CH-533

ACKER HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

3/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

2 OF 4



OH-533

ACKER HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

3/99

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED - LOOKING NE

3 OF 4



CH-533
ACKER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
R.G. SMITH

3/99
MARYLAND SHPO
SHED - LOOKING NE
4 OF 4